

SPEECH DELIVERED

AT THE

OPENING CEREMONY OF ISLAMIC HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR

**DR. SULE BELLO**

AT MAMBAYYA HOUSE

ON

OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2007

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen Assalam Alai Kum.

Let me start my remarks by expressing our collective thanks to Allah (SWT) for making it possible for all of us to witness this historic, Historical Exhibition here at Kano City of Kano state.

I believe this is an occasion on which I will be permitted to extend, without any hesitation, the thanks of all of us who are here, as well as those who have not been opportuned to be here, to the organizers of this very important, educative and bridge-building activity.

Without doubt the management of both Mambayya House and the Public Affairs section of the American Embassy have added some more feathers to their already highly feathered caps in the promotion of relevant, responsible and remarkable public activities in the state.

This exhibition is as important as it is timely. I have no doubt it will greatly facilitate greater understanding, and mutual appreciation, between our two Countries. It will open a window, for the citizens of Kano, on the history and culture of America of which many of them are either unaware or inadequately informed. I greatly hope that this exhibition will facilitate greater cultural contacts and cooperation between the two Countries. In particular we look forward to greater cooperation in projects designed to assist Nigeria, in general, and Kano state in particular in the recovery, preservation and promotion of their Islamic heritages among many others. We hope that in the not too distant future a return exhibition, from Kano, will be on tour to the United States for the benefit of our brothers and sisters, as well as cousins, over there.

Finally we heartily welcome Mallam Amir Muhammed, President and Curator of the collection and stories of American Muslims Inc. We wish him happy stay in Nigeria and a successful return back to the United States.

With these few words, and a prayer to the All Mighty God for his continuous and eternal blessings, it is my pleasure to declare this exhibition on “FORGOTTEN ROOTS: MUSLIMS IN EARLY AMERICA AND MUSLIMS OF THE EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY” Opened this day the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2007. The day corresponds to the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the auspicious month of Ramadan, year 1428 of the Hijra of our Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad Rasul-Allah (S. A. W) Happy Viewing.

Was Salam

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